

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/M/SCA:LAHUMMER:MA

APPROVED BY L:MBFELDMAN

JUSTICE:MR. RAYHILL

JUSTICE:MR. STEIN

JUSTICE: MR. STEVENSON

S/S - MR. MILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216696

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, BF

SUBJECT:EXTRADITION - ROBERT L. VESCO

REF: NASSAU 1664

1. DEPT. HAS CONTACTED PRESS OFFICE AT JUSTICE CRIMINAL DIVISION AT JUSTICE AND U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK REGARDING WALSH STATEMENT TO ADDERLEY.

2. PRESS OFFICE AT JUSTICE STATES WALSH IS KNOWN TO THEM BUT THAT HE HAS NOT ASKED THEM ABOUT VESCO. PRESS OFFICE EMPHATICALLY DENIES IT WAS SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND ASSURED US THAT IT IS FOLLOWING CURRENT PRESS GUIDANCE IN STATING ONLY THAT U.S. IS INTERESTED IN PURSUING EXTRADITION OF VESCO ON BASIS OF JULY 20 INDICTMENT WHILE DECLINING TO COMMENT ON ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR STATUS OF ANY PARTICULAR REQUEST. PRESS OFFICE ASSURES US IT HAS BEEN SCRUPULOUS IN NOT CRITICIZING THE BAHAMAS. CRIMINAL DIVISION STATES WALSH DID NOT CONTACT THEM. FYI TOP CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANT TO HENRY PETERSON STATES WALSH IS PERSONA NON GRATA TO CRIMINAL DIVISION BECAUSE OF ERRONEOUS REPORTING IN THE PAST. END FYI.

3. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO U.S. ATTORNEY IN NEW YORK STATES WALSH DID NOT CONTACT HIM OR, AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, ANY ONE ELSE IN HIS OFFICE. HE TOLD DEPT. HE WILL CONTACT WALSH TO PERSONALLY ASSERT ON BEHALF OF U.S. ATTORNEY THAT HIS ALLEGATIONS ARE ILL-FOUNDED.

4. DEPT. HAS BEEN QUERIED MANY TIMES THIS WEEK ABOUT VESCO. N.Y. TIMES REPORTER NAMED KREUTZEN ALSO IN WASHINGTON BUREAU, HAS CALLED BOTH DEPT. AND JUSTICE. PRESS OFFICE AT JUSTICE HAS TOLD HIM ONLY THAT DEPT. DID REQUEST VESCO'S EXTRADITION FROM BAHAMAS EARLIER IN SUMMER AND THIS WAS REQUEST ON WHICH ADDERLEY COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON SEPTEMBER 14.

5. YOU MAY INFORM ADDERLEY THAT ALL THREE OFFICES WE HAVE CONTACTED AT JUSTICE ASSURE DEPT. THAT THEY HAVE MADE NO STATEMENTS TO WALSH ABOUT EXISTENCE OF AN EXTRADITION REQUEST AND NO STATEMENTS CRITICIZING GCOB, AND THAT ALL AREAS OF JUSTICE HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY, SINCE ADDERLEY'S SEPTEMBER 14 ANNOUNCEMENT, TO COMPILE EXTRADITION DOCUMENTS ON VESCO, DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE PRESENTED NOVEMBER 1.

6. YOU MAY FURTHER EXPLAIN TO ADDERLEY THAT, SINCE VESCO IS SUBJECT OF INTENSE INTEREST IN U.S. PRESS, INTEREST WHICH HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED THIS WEEK WITH UNSEALING OF INDICTMENT, AND SINCE U.S. PREFERS ITS EXTRADITION REQUEST TO REMAIN SECRET, TACTICS OF WALSH ARE PART OF PRESS STRETEGY DESIGNED TO PROVOKE PUBLIC COMMENT BY U.S. OR BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT ON VESCO. PRESS ASSERTS TO ADDERLEY THAT U.S. CONSIDERS GCOB UNCOOPEATIVE, WHILE AT SAME TIME EMBASSY HAS LEARNED PRESS (WALL STREET JOURNAL) IS PREPARING ARTICLE ASSERTING U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS DELIBERATELY BOTCHED ITS ATTEMPTS TO EXTRADITE VESCO.
KISSINGER

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